

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 IO-14 OMB-01

DRC-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 INRE-00

NSCE-00 EURE-00 /112 W

----- 009262

O R 061700Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3592

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3170

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS

DIA FOR A2 AND DI5

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER RUMOR HAS ACCEPTED
PRESIDENT LEONE'S REQUEST THAT HE ATTEMPT TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT,
AND HAS DECLARED THAT HIS GOAL IS RENEWAL OF FULL FOUR-PARTY
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CENTER-LEFT COALITION. HOWEVER, MAJOR DOUBT EXISTS THAT

REPUBLICANS WILL AGREE TO PARTICIPATE. SHOULD THEY REFUSE, ATTENTION WILL FOCUS UPON POSSIBILITIES FOR FORMING A THREE-PARTY COALITION, THAT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE PROMISED REPUBLICAN SUPPORT IN PARLIAMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. AS EXPECTED, PRESIDENT LEONE LATE MORNING MARCH 6 FORMALLY REQUESTED PRIME MINISTER RUMOR TO ATTEMPT TO FORM A SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT. RUMOR GAVE CUSTOMARY CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE AND STATED HE WOULD COMMENCE HIS CONSULTATIONS TONIGHT. SCOPE OF LEONE'S MANDATE TO RUMOR WAS NOT PUBLICLY SPECIFIED, BUT ON LEAVING QUIRINALE PALACE RUMOR TOLD NEWSMEN HIS GOAL IS TO RECONSTITUTE FULL FOUR-PARTY CENTER-LEFT, AS CALLED FOR BY DC DIRECTIVE BODIES. THIS DECLARATION IS IN HARMONY WITH INDICATIONS REPORTED REFTEL THAT DC LEADERSHIP FEARS PREMATURE TALK OF THREE-PARTY ALTERNATIVE WOULD JEOPARDIZE PROSPECTS FOR PREFERABLE FOUR-PARTY SOLUTION. SIMILARLY, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SECRETARY ORLANDI URGED MARCH 5 THAT CENTER-LEFT LEADERS ADDRESS THEMSELVES AT THIS STAGE ONLY TO GOAL OF FOUR-PARTY COALITION. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS REJECTION OF REPUBLICAN PROPOSAL THAT ALL FOUR-PARTY SECRETARIES PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT, IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT ANY FOUR-PARTY GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT INCLUDE LA MALFA HIMSELF.

3. MEANWHILE OUR REPUBLICAN CONTACTS ARE INDICATING PROGRESSIVELY NEGATIVE ASSESSMENTS OF LIKELIHOOD OF ANY REPUBLICAN PARTICIPATION. DEFINITIVE PRI POSITION WILL NOT BE TAKEN BEFORE MEETING OF PARTY DIRECTORATE SCHEDULED FOR EVENING OF MARCH 6. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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